

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04891 221328Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----073843 222058Z /23
R 221115Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2212
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4891

EXDIS

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, UK, CACS
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: STATUS OF AMERICANS

REF: STATE 209232 (NOTAL)

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTER RAISED IN REFTTEL WITH THE
EMBASSY IN PRETORIA WHICH HAS A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE
STATUS OF AMERICANS IN RHODESIA THAN I DO. I HAVE HAD
VIRTUALLY NO CONTACT WHATSOEVER WITH AMERICANS IN
SALISBURY.

2. FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, AMERICANS IN RHODESIA FALL INTO FOUR
MAIN CATEGORIES: MISSIONARIES, BUSINESS PEOPLE, A FEW
MILITARY MERCENARIES, AND DEPENDENTS OF RHODESIANS AND
OTHER NATIONALITIES. BY FAR THE LARGEST NUMBER WOULD BE
IN THE FIRST CATEGORY, MISSIONARIES. THIS GROUP IS
LIKELY TO BE VERY RESISTENT TO LEAVING RHODESIA AT ALL.
THEY WILL TRY TO WEATHER THE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.
EVEN IF THEY LEAVE, IT IS LIKELY TO BE A FEW AT A TIME,
SINCE I DO NOT ENVISAGE A DRAMATIC BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND
ORDER. WHEN THEY LEAVE THEY WILL PROBABLY BE
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SUPPORTED AND ATTENDED TO BY THEIR PARENT MISSIONARY
SOCIETY. NONE OF THE OTHER GROUPS SEEM TO ME TO BE
LIKELY TO POSE A PROBLEM OF DESTITUTION, NOR DO I BELIEVE
IT LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A SUDDEN EXODUS OF THEM.
THEY ARE LIKELY TO TRICKLE OUT IF THE SITUATION DETERIORATES
FURTHER. MOST OF THEM WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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